

**NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS (The Motor Unit and Its Disorders).** Proceedings of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease, Volume XXXVIII, December 12 and 13, 1958, New York, N. Y. Raymond D. Adams, M.D., Lee M. Eaton, M.D., and G. Milton Shy, M.D., editors. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore 2, Maryland, 1960. 813 pages, \$20.00.

This monograph consists of 28 papers, specially prepared for publication, but based on oral presentations at the 38th annual meeting of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Diseases, in December, 1958. While the authors are predominantly American, Puerto Rican, Danish, Swedish, and English neurology are represented.

The subject, Neuromuscular Disorders, is dealt with in terms not only of the muscle cell, but also of the myoneural junction and the lower motor neurone. The major headings are: basic structure and function of the motor unit, experimental pathology, basic approach to clinical problems and experimental techniques of promise in the study of neuromuscular disorders. While 28 papers of an average length of less than 30 pages, each dealing with a separate, though related subject, do not allow an exhaustive presentation of each subject, the preparation and documentation is excellent, and the bibliography extensive.

Though neurochemical, neurophysiological and neuropathological approaches are presented, the design is primarily for the benefit of the clinical investigator and physician; giving an up-to-date account, not only of clinical states, but also of recent advances in biological and physical investigations and investigative methods. Such an account has been wanting in this field with its many unsolved disease entities.

This monograph seems an excellent reference source for any general physician, or particular clinical investigator. It is an ideal volume for browsing through to find portions of personal interest—but once this is done, there is liable to occur a need to read some more.

I consider this monograph an excellent contribution to the neurological literature, but its impact should be felt well beyond the confines of orthodox neurology.

DONALD MACRAE, M.D.

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**RESPIRATION—Physiologic Principles and Their Clinical Applications.** German edition written by P. H. Rossier, A. A. Bühlmann, and K. Wiesinger (Department of Medicine, Zurich University Medical School) and published under the title of *Physiologie und Pathophysiologie der Atmung* (newest second edition) by Springer-Verlag, Berlin-Göttingen-Heidelberg. Edited and Translated from the German Edition by Peter C. Luchsinger, M.D., Chief of Pulmonary Physiology Research Laboratory, Mt. Alto Veterans Administration Hospital, Washington, D. C.; Assistant Professor of Medicine, Georgetown University School of Medicine, Washington, D. C.; and Kenneth M. Moser, M.D., Head of Chest and Contagious Disease Branch, U. S. Naval Hospital, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.; Instructor in Medicine, Georgetown University School of Medicine, Washington, D. C. C. V. Mosby Company, 3207 Washington Boulevard, St. Louis 3, Mo., 1960. 505 pages, \$15.75.

Within present-day trends of integrating physiological and biochemical principles into the practice of clinical medicine, respiratory physiology has only recently become a field of interest of the clinician. Only a decade ago "pulmonary function laboratories" were virtually nonexistent, except as domains of pure research. Today no important medical center can afford to omit this facility. Consequently, several books dealing with pure and applied physiology of the respiration appeared recently. This volume, as indicated above, is a translation of a textbook written by a Swiss team which has appeared in two German language editions within three years. Yet, it is more than a routine translation of a book written in another language; one of the American editors and translators of the book has worked with the

Swiss team and collaborated in their writing of the two original editions. Drs. Luchsinger and Moser have re-edited the book, emphasizing viewpoints prevalent in this country and commenting on others. They included tables comparing the "Zurich terminology" and the "American terminology" to make it easier for the American reader to follow. As a result of their efforts they came out with an excellent volume, perhaps the most comprehensive in the field. The book consists of four sections: (1) Normal physiology of the respiration; (2) investigative methods in pulmonary function; (3) pathophysiology of respiration and (4) pulmonary insufficiency in clinical practice. Appended to the book is a section on bibliography 80 pages long, wherein articles are listed alphabetically by authors in short sections arranged by subjects and following the same order as that of the text. The text is illustrated by numerous tables and diagrams and the quality of print and reproduction is high.

The presentation of the text is clear and understandable. The mathematics is relatively easy to follow. Methodology and apparatus are described in sufficient detail to be a valuable guide for those engaged in pulmonary function work. To the clinician section four is of most interest. Chapters on emphysema, asthma, cor pulmonale, tuberculosis and other pulmonary diseases cover the field well, contain up-to-date information regarding etiology, diagnosis and treatment. The last three chapters are devoted to subjects not often covered in books of this type: influence of nonpulmonary factors on pulmonary function (obesity, electrolyte disturbance, anesthesia, pharmacological agents); high altitude breathing, and pulmonary function of athletes. In general, this volume is unquestionably an important contribution to the subject. It is recommended not only to "pulmonary function" specialists and to investigators, but also to clinicians interested in the broad field of diseases of the chest.

A. SELZER, M.D.

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**LAENNEC—HIS LIFE AND TIMES**—Roger Kervran, M.D. Translated from the French by D. C. Abrahams-Curiel. Pergamon Press, Inc., 122 East 55th Street, New York 22, N. Y., 1960. 213 pages, \$3.50.

Both author and translator have done an excellent job in this book about the frail consumptive, Laennec, who accomplished so much in spite of his disease. Most of those who know about his work are unaware of his Breton origin, his youth at the tragic time of the Revolution and the difficulties with which he had to cope in coming to Paris. Laennec's life as a person is woven into his medical life, and the story of his final scientific triumph, his book on Mediate Auscultation is once more presented in vivid and sympathetic style. Laennec died in 1826 at the age of forty-five, in the year his great book appeared, which has left its mark for all time on the subject of physical diagnosis and pulmonary tuberculosis.

ARTHUR L. BLOOMFIELD, M.D.

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**ARTHUR E. HERTZLER: THE KANSAS HORSE-AND-BUGGY DOCTOR**—Edward H. Hashinger, Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Gerontology and Lecturer in the History of Medicine, University of Kansas School of Medicine. Ninth Series of the Logan Clendening Lectures on the History and Philosophy of Medicine. University of Kansas Press, Lawrence, Kansas, 1961. 37 pages, \$2.00.

This is a very short biography of a famous American physician which unfortunately gives little information of his personality and accomplishments. It includes Dr. Hertzler's bibliography and a few photographs of the setting in which he lived and worked.

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